

**GUEST ARTIST  
APPEARANCE'S**

**BY**

**MICHAEL DRAKE**

**23 H.S. LETTERS!**



SOUTH CAMPUS



NORTH CAMPUS

# THE ARROWHEAD HIGH SCHOOL

SERVING THE VILLAGES OF HARTLAND, CHENEQUA, MERTON, NASHOTAM, THE TOWNS OF MERTON, LISBON, DELAFIELD, ODOMOMOWOC, PEWAUKEE, AND THE CITY OF DELAFIELD, WISCONSIN

Post Office: HARTLAND, WISCONSIN 53029

May 17, 1983

Mr. Michael Drake  
3269 S. Pine Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53207

Dear Mr. Drake;

I want to thank you on behalf of the Arrowhead Music Department and our Jazz Ensemble for appearing with our group at our annual Jazz Fest.

The rehearsals prior to our concert, when you worked with our students, were productive, rewarding, and enjoyable.

You have demonstrated great enthusiasm for your music and were able to transmit this feeling to the students. They were able to gain new insights into the interpretation of jazz.

Your performance at the concert was exceptional. The audience expressed their enjoyment through many ovations for your musical skill.

Thank you again,

*Gil Weigel*

Gilbert Weigel  
Jazz Ensemble Director

The concert performance went as predicted. Your performance was superb; musical, with taste, and intense emotion. You were professional in all respects. Even though the crowd was not a large one, you gave them a performance they would talk about for some time. Your ability to involve the audience in the program demonstrated a definite understanding of people and a "way" with an audience.

It was a pleasurable experience working with you. The cooperation you gave and interest in Hamilton's music program will be felt for several years to come. If I could have foreseen the spark something like this would give the music program, I certainly would have done this sooner.

I hope to be able to do this again in a few years. If you're still in the area, I'll definitely be in contact.

Keep up the excellent work and thank you again for all you've done.

Sincerely,



Bart Fojtik  
Band Director

Kenosha Unified School District Number 1

*Mary D. Bradford High School Bands*

3700 Washington Road • Kenosha, Wisconsin 53142

414-656-6218 or 414-656-6200

Mike,

Just a note to tell you how much I have enjoyed working with you. - so did the kids.

Your musicianship is superb, and when combined with your natural ability in communicating with students, the outcome is a truly exciting experience. I hope that we can work together again.

Al

The check is a little more than we discussed. It's just an added

Thanks



# CARROLL COLLEGE

WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN 53186  
TELEPHONE (414)547-1211

May 3, 1982

Michael Drake  
3269 South Pine  
Milwaukee,  
Wisconsin 53207

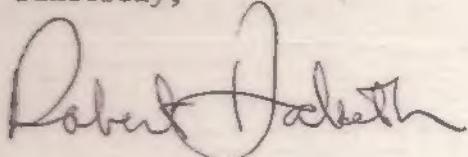
Dear Michael,

Wow! What a concert! Thank you for a super job as our guest artist with the Carroll College Jazz Ensemble on April 30, 1982. The band and I will never be the same. They are all fired up about playing big band jazz, and you played a large part in getting them so eager to play.

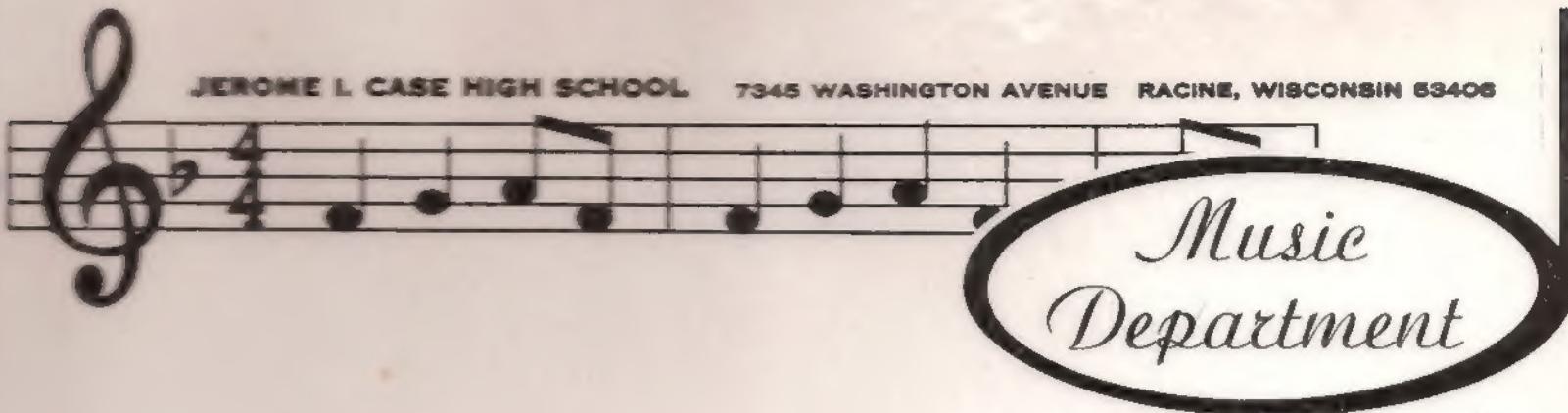
If I can be of service to you in any way in the future, please let me know. I will be glad to vouch for your musicianship, your ability to work with students, your tried and true concepts and your infectious enthusiasm. (And, it's nice to know that all that is wrapped up in a warm and gracious human being.)

It was good to meet your wife, Lori, and son, Adam. You have a lot going for you, Michael. Thanks for sharing your talents with us.

Sincerely,



Robert Halseth  
Director of Bands



April 13, 1983

Dear Mike,

From every indication we've had, last night's show was a huge success. Our kid's parents were most enthusiastic about the program. We all felt that, besides your fine playing, your obvious rapport with both the audience and our young jazz musicians was very much in evidence throughout the whole evening. Indeed, your fine rapport with our students here at Case was truly remarkable each and every time you were with us.

Also, we want you to know how much we appreciate your kind words of support for us and what we try to do with kids. Sometimes we feel as though we sort of "whistle in the dark" as we work with our young students. It's good "therapy" for us to have an outstanding musician such as you compliment us for what happens here. You were most generous with your praise and we do thank you very much.

We wish you an abundance of future successes, Mike. Hopefully, we've helped a little. It was great fun, wasn't it?

Sincerely,

*Fred Brewer  
Terry Stilley*  
Fred Brewer  
Terry Stilley

# Cudahy Senior High School

Cudahy, Wisconsin  
53110

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4950 S. Lake Drive.

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HAROLD F. LORENZ  
PRINCIPAL

GERALD BENKA  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

NEAL MICHEL  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

October 26, 1982

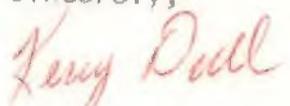
Kerry Dull  
Director of Bands  
Cudahy Senior High School

Mr. Michael Drake  
3269 South Pine  
Milwaukee, WI 53110

Dear Mr. Drake,

This letter is to say thank you and congratulations. Thank you for being such an outstanding guest artist and clinician. Congratulations on your ability to turn young people on to music and music making. The work you did with our band was exemplary. My students were turned on with your wonderful playing and your exuberant personality. Your performance here at Cudahy was truly a memorable experience for all. Best wishes in your future endeavors!

Sincerely,



Kerry Dull  
Director of Bands



Edgewood High School  
2219 Monroe Street  
Madison, WI 53711

Friday, October 04, 2002

Dear Michael Drake,

Thank you for working with Edgewood High School's Concert Band and trumpet section. Your enthusiasm was contagious and the students started to really get a feel for the music. Our jazz piece now has new life and is more fun to play.

The students in the trumpet section learned a lot about improving range and technique. You've shown them where they can go and how to get there. They are anxious to improve their skills.

Thank you for your help. We will call on you in the future.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robyn Smail".

Robyn Smail  
Instrumental Director  
Edgewood High School

# NEW BERLIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



CARL C. ANDREWS

Principal

TED OERTEL

Vice Principal

DOUGLAS R. STRAUS

Vice Principal

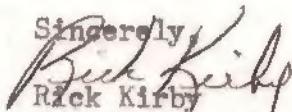
February 11, 1983

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter of recommendation for Michael Drake. We had the pleasure of having Mr. Drake appear as a guest soloist with the Eisenhower High School Jazz Ensemble in November of 1982. He performed several of his original charts on the flugel horn with our group. His rapport with both the students and the audience was outstanding with many compliments coming from everyone concerned.

Mr. Drake is an excellent jazz player with the additional attribute of also being a fine teacher. The students identified very quickly with his style and responded immediately to his personality. Mr. Drake performed brilliantly at the concert and received a well deserved ovation from the audience.

Having Mr. Drake perform at our school was a very rewarding educational experience for the students, the audience and myself. I highly recommend him as a guest soloist and/or clinician. If you would like additional information concerning Mr. Drake's ability, please do not hesitate to call me at (414) 786-1330.

Sincerely,  
  
Rick Kirby  
Director of Bands  
Eisenhower High School

EISENHOWER HIGH SCHOOL

4333 SOUTH SUNNY SLOPE ROAD, NEW BERLIN, WISCONSIN 53151 • PHONE 414-786-1330

# HAMILTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL — WALTER WEGENER  
Ext. 38

PRINCIPAL — JONELL PATERSON, PH.D.  
Ext. 38  
HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL  
McDonald's Town Line Road  
Somers, Wisconsin 53089  
Phone: 248-6471 (ext. 4)

## HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL — ALEX DITTRICH  
Ext. 55

February 22, 1983

Mr. Michael Drake  
3269 S. Pine  
Milwaukee, WI 53207

Dear Mr. Drake:

Thank you for the outstanding clinic given the Hamilton Jazz Ensemble on Wednesday, February 16, 1983. The approach you used captivated the students and motivated their interest throughout the two hour session. From your opening statement to your concluding remarks, the students felt comfortable with your style and willing to actively partake in the clinic. The rapport you established was terrific. A task that is most difficult with todays adolescents.

Your enthusiasm for the jazz idiom and music in general has had very positive effects on the students. Their heightened excitement to perform and increased interest in jazz are just two examples of the effect you have had. Your thoughts were well expressed and demonstrated a real knowledge of the jazz field.

Musical demonstrations are always a wanted feature by students. The students were extremely impressed with



# HAMILTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL — WALTER WEGENER  
Ext 38

PRINCIPAL — LOWELL PAPPENROTH PH.D.  
Ext 36  
HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL  
POSSINGE 5 1/2 — 1/2 — 1/2 —  
SCHOOL IN SESSION 550289  
Phone 246-6471 Ext 4

## HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL — ALEX DITTRICH  
Ext 55

... you, and have inquired numerously about your  
ability to improvise, produce a wide range on the in-  
strument, and interpret jazz.

The students and I both feel that we received a  
most beneficial session from you. You have given us  
new approaches to the jazz idiom and have made us  
more appreciative of the art form.

Again. Thank You!

Sincerely,

*Bart J. Fojtik*  
Bart J. Fojtik  
Band Director



# HAMILTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

PRINCIPAL — LOWELL PAFFENROTH, PH.D.  
Ext 104

HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL  
1000 N. Franklin Road  
Superintendent: Lowell Paffenroth  
Phone: 464-4444

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL — AARON TRUMMER  
Ext 106  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL — WALTER WEGENER  
Ext 105

June 3, 1988

Michael Drake  
2600 East Chic  
Milwaukee, WI. 53207

Dear Mike:

Just a note to say how pleased I was with the way the rehearsals and concert went last month. When we first talked about you coming and performing with the bands, I must admit, I was a little apprehensive. But, after going over the music with you and taking your encouragement to heart, I felt much more at ease.

The music selected for the performance was very appropriate for the group of students I had. It contained good musical content and was not simply "solo accompaniment" composition. Your selections demonstrated musical variety, sensitivity, and well developed melodic lines. It became a pleasure to conduct the selections and work with you in their interpretation.

The concern you expressed for Hamilton's musical betterment was greatly appreciated. Working with a professional who is genuinely interested with the musical development of younger players is a true pleasure. Too often professional artists care about themselves and their personal performances. This self-indulged feeling was not once conveyed to either the students or myself.

Your willingness to come out to Hamilton anytime and work with the concert band and jazz ensemble was a real tension relaxer. I could count on you whenever a difficulty arose. When you did rehearse with one of the bands, you were encouraging, complimentary, and professional. Your rapport with the students was outstanding, and consequently, a feeling of respect developed quickly between yourself and the bands. Your upbeat mannerism and down to earth personality enhanced the development of this relationship.





## Hartford Union High School

### Music Department

805 Cedar Street

Hartford, Wisconsin 53027

[www.huhs.org](http://www.huhs.org)

#### Choral Office

(262) 670-3301

#### Instrumental Office

(262) 670-3303

Michael Drake  
2600 East Ohio  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53207

February 28, 2003

Dear Mike,

I thought I would drop you a quick note of thanks for all the good work you did with our Jazz Ensembles. I know you worked very hard with our 3 bands and want you to know that your hours of work have made a positive impact on our bands. We all could hear the difference immediately. The bands thought you were great and would love to have you back. Your insightful suggestions and energetic demeanor has them all "pumped-up" for our Solo/Ensemble festival next weekend.

Thanks again for your help and we look forward to a return visit.

Sincerely,



David F. Kranjac  
Band Director

**Choirs**  
Stephanie Virchow  
Ernie Brusabardis

**Bands**  
David Kranjac  
David Vandermeuse

**Orchestra**  
Joyce Malloy

DIVINE SAVIOR HOLY ANGELS HIGH SCHOOL

427 N. 16TH STREET MILWAUKEE WIS. 53222 PHONE (414) 466-3706



To Whom It May Concern:

Michael Drake's workshop with my students, April, 1983, was both educational and entertaining.

I totally enjoyed his approach to teaching. He kept student interest, broadened student conceptions of musicianship and imparted knowledge that reinforced my goals.

He also left us with material that will be very useful in the future.

I would like to thank you and Mr. Drake for making this service available.

Sincerely,

*Roberta Crawford*

Roberta Crawford

Music Director

RACINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

WILLIAM HORLICK HIGH SCHOOL  
2119 Rapids Dr.  
Racine, Wisconsin 53404

RECEIVED  
MARCH 12 1987  
RACINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

I would like to take this opportunity to again thank you for your performance with the Horlick Symphonic Band on our concert night of March 8th. The comments from parents and the audience response confirms that this was the best performed concert we have had at Horlick in 4 years. Your artistic style and dedication to rehearsal was certainly evident.

Thank you again for an experience that was rewarding to both the parents and the students.

Andy Henry  
Music Director  
Horlick High School Bands

RACINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

WILLIAM HORLICK HIGH SCHOOL  
2119 Rapids Dr.  
Racine, Wisconsin 53404

February 26, 1991

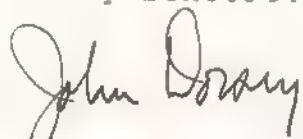
To Whom it may concern:

On February 14, 1991, Michael Drake was the featured guest soloist and clinician at the 1991 Horlick Jazz Festival at Wm. Horlick High School in Racine, Wisconsin. This Jazz festival featured the jazz ensembles and show choirs from Horlick High School as well as Jerstad-Agerholm and Gilmore Middle Schools. Michael Drake's 1991 appearance marked the third time we've had him as our clinician / soloist.

Michael Drake is Mr. Enthusiasm. The students love working with him and his audience appeal is the best of any soloist I've had. All the music that we perform is composed by and furnished by Michael Drake. This year Michael came to school and worked with my band at least ten different times. He did this on his own even though this involved traveling to Racine from Milwaukee each time.

I recommend Michael Drake highly as a soloist or as a clinician. If you would like a further or more specific recommendation, feel free to call me at Horlick High School. (414) 631-7008, ext. 268.

Very Sincerely,



John Dorsey  
Jazz Ensemble Director  
William Horlick High School  
2119 Rapids Drive  
Racine, Wisconsin



# MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL

3401 WEST WISCONSIN AVENUE • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53208 • 414/933-7220

March 20, 2003

Dear Michael,

Just a quick thanks to yourself and to the Getzen company for making it possible for our school to enjoy the improvisation clinic you presented to our students yesterday. You did a terrific job - you lit a fire under some of the kids and that was exactly what I was looking for! My students and I look forward to working with you again in the future.

A sincere thanks,

Randy S. Skowronski  
Director of Music

# MUSKEGO HIGH SCHOOL

# DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

LEE JACOBI. DIRECTOR OF CHOIRS  
KENNETH C. OLSON. DIRECTOR OF BANDS

June 9, 1982

Re: Mickael Drake, Jazz ensemble Clinician and Guest Soloist

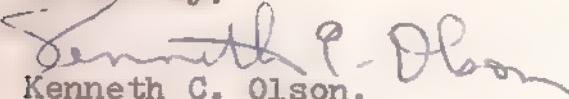
We had the priviledge of having Mike serve in two capacities this year with our jazz ensemble. First he was a guest clinician for one of our rehearsals. We later were able to make arrangements for him to appear as guest soloist with the band and jazz ensemble at our spring band concert, performing three of his original compositions. (In preparation for this appearance, we had the pleasure of his returning to rehearse the jazz ensemble several more times.) Mike excelled in both of the above capacities.

Mike works, relates, and communicates well with high school students. He is highly motivational and stimulating. His rehearsals were well paced; he is intense and involved but relaxed, using humor, positive encouragement, compliments, and demonstrations to motivate the students. He is very inspirational by his comments, knowledge of the jazz idiom, and his performing ability. Using his own compositions, he transmitted a wealth of information in a short time concerning the performance and interpretation of jazz music in addition to the mental concepts and preparation so necessary for successful involvement with music.

Needless to say, his performance at the concert was fantastic.

It was a pleasure working with Mike. We look forward to having him with us again.

Sincerely,

  
Kenneth C. Olson,  
Band Director

June 9, 1982

To whom it may concern:

Michael Drake spent several hours at our school in clinic/rehearsal situations with our advanced jazz band. These sessions concluded by featuring Mike with our band in our Spring Jazz Concert.

Mike is one of the most exciting clinicians we have ever worked with. He and his compositions are packed with energy and enthusiasm. His attitude is relaxed, yet there is an obvious commitment to the art that is total and sincere.

Mike is fantastic as a performer on the fluegelhorn. He performs his own compositions, which are current and of top quality. The students really get into them!

Mike speaks the language of jazz fluently and conveys it well to the students. He has so much to share, and he has a strong desire to share his music with others, in particular young musicians.

I'm sure we will be hearing a lot more from Michael Drake, jazz artist, composer and clinician.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Boller  
Director of Bands  
New Berlin High School



RACINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

WILLIAM HORLICK HIGH SCHOOL  
2119 Rapids Dr.  
Racine, Wisconsin 53404

February 26, 1991

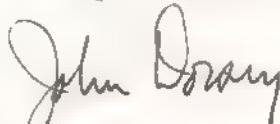
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I recommend Michael Drake highly as a soloist or as a clinician. If you would like a further or more specific recommendation, feel free to call me at Horlick High School, (414) 631-7008, ext. 268.

Very Sincerely,



John Dorsey  
Jazz Ensemble Director  
William Horlick High School  
2119 Rapids Drive  
Racine, Wisconsin

RACINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

WILLIAM HORLICK HIGH SCHOOL  
2119 Rapids Dr.  
Racine, Wisconsin 53404

Memorandum

To whom it may concern:

In February 16, 1989, Michael Drake was the guest clinician and featured soloist at the Horlick Jazz Festival at Horlick High School in Racine, Wisconsin. This was Mike's second appearance at our annual jazz festival, having also appeared in 1985. I have taught at Horlick for the past ten years. During this time I have had many outstanding musicians perform with and clinic the students involved in the Horlick Jazz Festival. I will very honestly tell you that no one has been better received by both the students and audience than Mike was at each of his performances.

Briefly I will explain the format of our jazz festival. The groups involved are 2 jazz ensembles from Horlick H.S. and one jazz ensemble from each of our 2 feeder middle schools. We have the middle schools come to the high school for an entire day of rehearsal and clinic with a performance in the evening. Each group performs separately. For a finale we have a massed jazz ensemble made up of all 4 groups combined. In addition, my top jazz band performs 3 pieces with the guest soloist.

Mike works exceptionally well with the students. All of the music that we performed were Mike's compositions. His pieces really are hip sounding yet really aren't that difficult. Mike came to Horlick at least 10 times to rehearse my band. Mike basically runs the rehearsals himself. During the performance Mike fronts the band himself. This is definitely an educational experience for the students. As I mentioned earlier, Mike is truly a hit with the audience. One parent suggested to me that I have Mike back every year. We had an audience that night of about 500.

I recommend Michael Drake highly. Please feel free to call me at school (414-631-7008 ext. 268) if you would like a more detailed endorsement of Mike. In closing I would like to say that Mike is serious, reliable, enthusiastic, motivational and just plain fun. He will teach your students something and be a hit with the audience.

Sincerely,

John Dorsey  
Jazz Ensemble Director  
W.M. Horlick High School  
Racine, Wisconsin



## RACINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

WILLIAM HORLICK HIGH SCHOOL  
2119 Rapids Dr.  
Racine, Wisconsin 53404

February 20, 1985

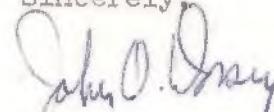
On February 14, 1985, Michael Drake was the guest soloist and clinician at the annual "Horlick Jazz Festival" at Wm. Horlick High School in Racine, Wisconsin. Featured at this clinic - concert are the jazz ensembles from Horlick H.S. as well as our two feeder middle schools, Gilmore and Jerstad-Agerholm.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend Mike for his fine work and to highly recommend him to anyone who may be planning a similar venture.

Mike performs his own compositions which of course feature him on the flugel-horn. The charts that Mike performed proved to be exciting to the musicians who performed them as well as to the audience.

Mike has a very vibrant personality and relates extremely well to the grade 7 - 12 students. To me, the most impressive part of Mike's work for me was the amount of time that he spent at Horlick. When I originally contacted Mike, I asked only that he be at Horlick for one full day, February 14. However, Mike insisted on coming in and rehearsing my band in advance. In fact, Mike came to at least ten of my rehearsals prior to the concert. He also visited the two middle schools. Mike takes charge of the rehearsal completely and during the concert he fronts the band himself. The results are a completely professional and entertaining performance. I have heard nothing but raves about Mike's performance here at Horlick. More importantly, my students and my future students from the middle schools came away with a most positive feeling. A main objective of this festival is to create enthusiasm in my future jazzers which will help sustain my program here at Horlick. Michael Drake certainly helped my cause to which I'm extremely grateful.

Sincerely,



John O. Dorsey  
Director, Horlick H.S.  
Jazz Ensemble  
Racine, Wisconsin  
(414) 631-7008



SOUTH MILWAUKEE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

1001 Fifteenth Avenue  
Tel: 788-6315

South Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
53172

Norman S. Klein, Principal  
Donald J. VanderVelden, Asst. Prin.  
Patricia Strozyk, Asst. Prin.

February 24, 1986

Mr. Michael Drake  
3269 South Pine Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53207

Dear Michael,

It was a pleasure to have you appear as soloist and clinician at our "Winter Winds" Clinic and Concert. Thanks for a beautiful clinic, concert and very enjoyable day. I have heard nothing but favorable comments about the excellent work you did throughout the day and at the concert. People were just overwhelmed with your excellent performance at the evening concert.

We are very appreciative of the many additional hours you spent in clinic and rehearsal sessions with our Rhythm Section, Jazz Ensemble and Symphonic Band. Your dedication and musical perfectionism are truly commendable.

We thank you for a very exciting, educational and inspiring musical experience.

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that appears to read "Sharon Awe".

Sharon Awe  
Director of Bands

SA:md



## WAUWATOSA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Wauwatosa West High School  
11400 West Center Street  
Wauwatosa, WI 53122

(414) 255-1200

Donald Rasmussen  
Principal

October 15, 1982

Maurice Sullivan  
Superintendent of Schools

Kenneth L. Christensen  
Associate Superintendent

Mr. Michael Drake  
3269 S. Pine St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53207

Dear Mike,

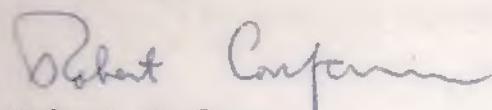
On behalf of the Wauwatosa East and West Music Departments, I would like to thank you for appearing with our Jazz Ensembles for our Annual East-West Jazz Festival on May 11, 1982. Your enthusiasm, musicianship and leadership were an inspiration to our students and was a positive experience they will never forget.

Your willingness to come at 7:00 a.m. to rehearse and spend extra time with the groups until they were properly prepared is an example of your dedication to teach and inspire young people.

The arrangements that you used were geared for our bands and were received enthusiastically by the audience.

Thank you for sharing your talents and I hope we can work with you in the near future.

Sincerely,



Robert Confare  
Director of Bands

RC/lS



# The Wauwatosa East High School

## "Red Raider" Symphonic Band

6/2/82

DIRECTOR  
ORVILLE A. MATTHIAS

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
THOMAS J. BREMER

Mike Drake  
Performer - Clinician

Mr. Drake exhibits an exceptional musicianship and is totally competent in Jazz and Brass techniques.

He has shown himself to be an exciting entertainer and communicates well with High School Students.

He has unlimited energy and a sincere desire to give of his talents and takes a personal interest in the students.

His involvement is not a job but an enjoyment. His complete dedication is realized by all he comes in contact.

Mr. Drake has been a high-point in the musical experiences of the students. He has my unqualified recommendation.

*Orville A. Matthias*

Orville A. Matthias  
Director  
Wauwatosa East High Band  
7500 Milwaukee Ave.  
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53213

STATE LION'S PARADE  
AWARD WINNING BAND

1976 BICENTENNIAL FESTIVAL OF STATES  
SAINT PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

NFL PACKER-FOOTBALL  
MILWAUKEE COUNTY STADIUM

1973-1977 MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE  
NEW YORK CITY

1984 NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR  
"WISCONSIN DAY"

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATION  
MONTREAL WORLD EXPOSITION '67

PARADE OF PRINCESSES  
CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL WASHINGTON, D.C.

"TOURNAMENT OF ROSES PARADE"  
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA